INDUSTRIAL ENGLAND.

BY ROBERT P. PORTER, MEMBER OF THE LATE TARIFF COMMISSION.

TRADE. [FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE THIBUNE.]
HANLEY, England, March 12.
The district of which this town is called the

metropolis may be aptly described as "A Babylon of Crockery." Indeed, had I not been accompanied in my walks through "The Potteries" by Mr. Edward E. Lane, United States Consul at Tunstall, and Col. Albert D. Shaw, United States Consul at Manches ter, I should have lost myself even in the day-time in the series of dingy towns and most unrural villages that run into one another and sprawl for several miles along the bottom of what was once a picturesque valley. The Parliamentary borough of Stoke-upon-Trent, comprising a district of about ten miles by three, contains most of the pottery towns and villages, all of which are adjuming and forming really one large scattered manufacturing town, containing an aggregate population estimated to exceed 200,000. The chief towns of the district are Hanley, with a population of 50,000; Burslem, with 30,000; Longton and Lane End, with 20,000; Stoke-upon-Trent, with 20,000; Fenton, with 15,-000; and several other villages of less importance. Take a good map of Staffordshire and make rectangle of four by seven miles and you have within an area of less than thirty square miles the pottery districts of England, in which seven-tenths of the pottery is made, employing 56,000 persons, with an invested capital of over \$10,000,000.

The other noted pottery localities in England are Lambeth, Worcester, Coalport, Broseley, and Wat-combe; but of the 517 pottery establishments in England and Wales, according to a calculation recently made by Consul Lane, 305 are in this district, and they are more extensive than those elsewhere, some, like Minton's, at Burslem, employing 2.000 hands. Mr. Lane's estimate is as follows: Tunstall, 20; Burslem (including Cobridge), 85; Hanley, 65; Stoke, 20; Fenton, 25; Longton, 90; total, 305. To show how much more concentrated the English trade is than that of the United States, and how much more nearly a monopoly it is, I need only say that there are in the United States 686 establishments, employing less than 10,000 hands, against 305 in Staffordshire, employing 50,000 hands.

Accompanied by the Tunstall and Manchester Consuls, I walked through all the pottery towns. These places stretch and straggle along continuously. The whole district bristles with kilns of every conceivable shape and appearance, some like pyramids, some like big bellows without a nozzle, some like high-shouldered case-bottles, some like the typical American whiskey-jug; in short, "some are ringed with bulging rims; some are varicosely verned with capriciously diverging cracks; some are castellated; some are pierced at the top as if for musketry; some push out their plump proportion at the angle between two flat walls, like the corner towers of castles." The work-people all wear ooden shoes, which clatter on the footpaths. Public houses and meeting-houses are alike plentiful. Steam tram-ears toil up the hills and rumble down with brake-locked wheels. "Donkeys," says Dr. Rowe, "with unpainted milk-cans, like magnified tea-canisters, rumble by; milkmen bearing green milk-cans in their hands and milk women dragging green milk-cans mounted on wheels trudge Coal-carts, red, black and blue, everywhere grind through the mud, or jolt over the frozen rats." Canals, with long narrow barges floating on peasoupy water, run alongside the potteries and litter their wharfs-scored with narrow tramways and tiny turn-tables-with Cornish clay, coals, bones and flint. Everywhere there are potteries. Smoke, soot and flames make the air heavy. The cows and donkeys look melancholy and dusty. The yards and as follows. I have added the average rate of the the streets are littered with mounds of smashed crockery and cracked "suggers."

On all sides of the waste ground are little streets, with old and miserable houses in which the potters live. We walked up and down scores of these streets in all the towns and found them much the same. The wages paid the great bulk of the potters only permit of their paying from 2s. 9d. to 3s. (75 cents) week house-rent. They live in one room, in which washing and ironing, eating and, not infrequently, sleeping are done. The majority of the houses on these streets are anything but tidy and cheerful. Slovenly women and durty, ragged children came to the doors of the houses as we passed along, and the mere fact of three respectably dressed men walking through these streets excited the astonishment of the entire neighborhood, and a curious crowd followed at our heels.

Mr. Lane informed me that the majority of the potters lived in this class of houses, which seem to be worse at Hanley and Longton than in the other towns. Of course there is a class of operatives who earn better wages and live in more comfortable dwellings, but the bulk of them reside in badlyventilated small houses. They rerely accumulate anything, and seldom or never own their houses. A great deal of money is spent in drink. The chief recreations are during the "wake seasons." In the potteries there are two kinds of wakes-the Stoke wakes and the Burslem wakes. At these times the potter will quit work for perhaps two weeks, or until all his money has been spent. He gives himself up to play. All sorts of shows come to town and establish themselves on the gras-less vacant lots. Fat women, living skeletons, double-headed children, shooting, ball-throwing, merry-go-'rounds, "sailing boats," minstrels, all sorts of curiosities and oddities and a general carnival of drink con-

trict is at a stand-still during these times. Years ago Sunday used to be a fair-day in the potteries, but I was told that now it was almost as quiet as a Glasgow Sunday. Dr.Rowe says that many of the potters are Methodists. A Sunday love-feast, as he describes it, would be a curious surprise to an American. The very date of the conversion is given, and the confessions of farth are unique. One brother spurned the thoughts of "blowin' hup the hashes of a hextinguished hexperence.' A second began: "Ah'm happy to see that ah knaw ah'm a sinner-presse the Lord." A third: "Ah ken't mek foin spee-aches loike soom folk." A fourth: "Ah ken't se as ah wor born o' pious parents, but ah went to schule wi Jesus Chroist, an' He teached me

stitute these wakes. The entire business of the dis

hall ah wahnt to knaw." Fifty years ago, instead of religious experiences cock-fighting was the amusement. Ask any old

potter about those days and he will reply: "Theer wor cockin' an' dog-foightins then. Ah'd rayther see a cock-foight than a dog-battle any dee. The dogs weely worry theirselves to regs, host the cocks, if they's any spoonk to 'em, soon gets it ower. It moest be a game cockerel thaht 'ull stahnd the stale. Ah'd one once fowt for an how-er, an' war hall coot hoop joost as if ye'd carved un."

It is not within the scope of this letter to explain the process of making pottery, which is very interesting, nor yet to describe the handsoms showrooms, one of which (Minton's) the guide assured us was "the foinest show-room hin hail Hurup." In this room may be found the choicest products of the potter's art, truly "a congregation of ground clay

made perfect. Such is the pottery district of England to-day. As

far back as the beginning of the eighteenth century re was a manufacture of common cooking ware at Burslem. The art of producing the finest sorts was wholly neglected and they turned out nothing but a coarse porous ware called "butter-ware," and Burslem was marked on the map as the "Butter Pottery." Though possessing all the materials for the fabric of earthenware, England and hitherto depended almost entirely on the importation of a red Instrons pottery from France, Germany and Italy. It was not until Josiah Wedgwood, with his skilful hand and artisticeye, began in this district that the industry attained any importance. In 1801 the population of this district was 23,627; to-day it is 200,000. Up to the time of Wedgwood there had been nothing worthy of decorative art, of color, proportion, or form. A mixture of different colored clays, of rade outlines scratched in by a nail, a bine or brown edge-line, or a paste-like medallion luted to the surfaces, were the highest efforts of ornaental art. After all that had been been done for thental art. After all that had been been done for the improvement of the different bodies, they were

at best flimsy and indifferently glazed, the hue of the white ware was bad, and the forms and their adjuncts were ill-proportioned, often angular, and almost always without those flowing outlines that, while severely true to geometrical principles, show FACTS AND FIGURES OF THE POTTERY the utmost grace, delicacy and beauty. Wedgwood in his ware combined the imitation of the most beautiful forms of ancient art with unequalled cheapness. He mangurated a system of improved designs, which made his ware superior to any other that had been produced in Europe for common uses. The old works, at Etruria, are still in use and are worth a visit. They are quaint and old-fashioned in appearance. Some additions have been made, but nearly all the shops have low-roofed raftered ceilings, little square-paned windows, through which the light faintly comes, and in fact are precisely the same us when Wedgwood, in the fulness of his powers, directed the industrial forces and produced perfect and beautiful work.

The advantages enjoyed by the English manufacturers of pottery over the American are concentration of effort combined with an industrial existence of two centuries; the first century beginning with Burslem "butter-ware" and closing with the era of Wedgwood, and the second clesing with Minton's magnificent show-room, with single plates costing \$150, with schools of art, with the Wedgwood Institute, and, withal, cheap skilled labor. At Minton's I saw artists working in the cooped-up rooms of the factory who would earn their thousands in the United States and be their own masters.

A very large proportion of the earthen and china ware, parian and porcelain made in England finds a market in the United States, and this in spite of the fact of the rapid strides we have made in their manufacture, which, however, have materially reduced the cost to the consumer. In the decade ending with 1882 no less than \$31,076,100 worth of these goods were exported to the United States from this district alone-averaging over \$3,-000,000 annually. This does not represent our total importation, which in 1881 amounted to 53 per cent of what we consumed. The value of exports from England to all countries in 1880 was: earthen and china ware, parian and porcelain (not including red pottery and brown-stone ware), \$9, 902,275; brown-stone ware, \$2,759,440; clay unmanufactured, \$759,790; clay manufactured, \$878,940; total value, \$14,400,445. The total value of the product, according to the census of 1880, of all the potteries, stone-ware and porcelain manufactories in the United States was only \$7,943,229, about half the value of the British exports for the same year.

The English manufacturers complain of the slight increase in the tariff on the finest class of goods and say it will work a great injury here. They frankly admit that the progress in this line of business in the United States has been wonderful. Says Mr. H. R. Fox Bourne in his history of pottery in England: 'The trade may be said to have been fairly entered upon in 1870, and while Trenton already abounds in factories and bids fair to be the Burslem of the United States, the business is extending to East Liverpool in Ohio, Greenpoint, New York, and other General Tyndall, another English authority, in speaking of American enterprise in this line, said : "The prices of their wares are very low in relation to the cost of labor in the United States. The processes employed are of the most improved kind, and the potteries are well arranged very orderly and highly commendable. materials used are found in the United States," Of course England is still ahead, but the gian strides which the trade is now taking in the United States are not thought lightly of here. The wages paid in England are very low, far more than fifty per cent le ver than in the United States. Last year during a strike the employes published what they claimed was a true table of the average net earnings per man per week, with all deductions for

Trenton operatives:	Av'ge earn- ings in American
Plat presser	2 19 43 2 19 67 1 18 54 6 19 73 4 17 90 2 21 89 5 13 56 6 19 33 3 20 79 0 16 97

Total average per man ______21 15 10 \$8 69 \$18 50

The English workmen, however, claimed that the part referring to the English trade was too high, and careful statement was furnished Consul Lane in behalf of the men showing that the average earnings were only £1 11s., or about \$7 50, per week against \$18 50 in the United States. But I pointed out to Mr. Lane that these averages did not indicate the earnings of the majority of the potters in England nor in the United States, and I suggested to him that to complete the work he should find out what proportion, say in one hundred, were hollowware presser jiggers, receiving \$11 62 a week, and what proportion were ovenmen receiving only \$6.86. In compliance with this request I have this morning received the following from Mr. Lane:

morning received the following from Mr. Lane:

In an earthenware manufactory for making plain
white goods, employing say 200 people of both
sexes and all ages, including the skilled hands and
their attendants, there will be on an average of men
in the different branches of work as follows:
Ifollow-ware pressers 32; flat-pressers 6; dishmakers 4; hand-basin makers 1; cup-makers 3;
saucer-makers 4; handlers 2; turners 4; saggermakers 5; ovenmen 21; mold-makers 3; total 85
of what may be called skilled workmen. If the
work meak is to be printed, but otherwise of the or what may be called ware made is to be printed, but otherwise of the same kind as above, 40 employes must be added for that department.

Here then are about three-fourths of the operators at \$8 14 and \$6 86 a week, if we take the employes' estimate (which is disputed by the men). Then the printers, of whom Mr. Lane says there would be 40 in a factory employing 200 hands in white ware, are the lowest paid of all--only \$6.55 per week. All three of these classes, aggregating undoubtedly over three-fourths of the entire skilled labor of the Pottery District, receive far less than the average. I have merely gone into these details to show the absurdity of averaging wages. The unskilled hands in those potteries make from 4s., or \$1, to perhaps £1, or \$5, a week. "How much do you make ?" said I to a dark-eyed

young woman in the print shop. "Ab moost do a many to mek oot mah dee's

"How much money a week, I mean ?"

"Oh, we doan't make more than ten shillins." The only fair method of comparing wages is to ake the same department of work in each country, For example, plate makers in England average \$7 50 a week; in the United States \$20 30. English dishmakers make \$9 62; Americans \$19 43. English cup-makers, \$9 92; Americans \$19 67. And so on through the list. It is not so much in the skilled work that the British workman has cause to complain, but I have found throughout England that great suffering exists among the laboring classes and these whose work does not require much skill. For example, in the English potteries, according to the masters, the hollow-ware presser, the oven-man, and the printer (representing over three-fourths of the skilled labor) receive \$8 14, \$6 86 and \$6 55 respectively; while in the United States they receive \$17 00, \$13 18 and \$13 56 respectively. short, with the additional high pay in the United States for the puskilled labor, and for the lads and girls, it puts what I may call the bone and sinew of the trade on a living basis, where they can live comfortably and save money, own their homes and be men and women. It is this class that feel more severely than any other a reduction of wages, and it is this class, for they are after all the many, that give strength, character and prosperity to a country. It is an undoubted fact that three-fourths of the people of the entire pottery district live on 25s. (\$6) or less a week per man. What can that buy them? Consul Lane has kindly given me an averre estimate of the weekly expenses of a man with wife and two children (a small family in Enga wife and two children a small rainity in Fag-land), whose income for the year round averages 25s. (§6) a week. Here it is, and a perusal shows the grote-squeness of the cry of cheap cloths. Ad-mitting there is any difference in the price of the common grades of clothing (which I begin seriously to doubt) at home and here, the balk of English potters, according to their own statements, have

cost of keeping book Raies Club Coal Bread Bacon (8d. B) Cheese (6d. B) Butter (1s. 4d. B) Poratoes (3 B 1d.)	3 : :24111	and d. 419 5 119 4 4 4 5 5	Tea (2s. B). Sugar (34gd. B). Sugar (34gd. B). Scap (3d. B). Flour (2d. B). Candles (6d. B). Milk (4d. quart). Tobacco. Beer Clothes.		d
Butchers' meat	3	1000	Total£1	5	

I have endeavored, imperfectly I know, to ascer-I have endeavored, imperfectly have tain the real condition of the English potters, and, at least, the facts presented are worth a careful examination, especially by the American workman. He ought to feel sure of his present condition before he takes the leap in the dark.

ROBERT P. PORTER.

FREE TRADERS SHOWING THEIR PURPOSE.

To the Editor of the Tribune.

SIR: To-day I received from an English friend The Manchester Examiner and Times of the 9th instant, containing an editorial on American industries and the American murkets, which the English long to have for their own. In it occurs the frank avowal that with free trade the English manufacturers would speedily suppress our cotton mills. The words are:

ily suppress our cotton mills. The words are:

A few months ago a gentleman well known in East Lancashire for a thorough and complete knowledge of cotton manufacture and its machinery, made an extended tour through all those parts of the United States where this industry is carried on. He visited scores of mills, and the result of his observations may be summed up in the brief statement made to us that if the United States were to abolish the duty on cotton goods, we should shut up every one of their cotton mills in less than two years.

No American can be long in England without being attacked on the subject of free trade, as I have been a great many times. English free traders have always acknowledged to me that without a protective tariff they uld speedily run down our woollen mills, cotton mills

I said: "Then how could the hundreds of thousands of the workers in these establishments live ?"
"You have a boundless extent of fertile lands upon

which they could settle and produce provisions to pay for the manufactured goods your country would require."

"But a large part of these people for various reas could not do that, and their condition would be very much the same as that of your English workpeople when out of employment." "Yes, but the result of that would be a glut in the

labor market which would enable you to have wages as low as they are here."

But it is our policy to have wages high and not low We wish to attract skilled laborers from abroad so as to supply our own wants by our own labor and thus to make ourselves independent of other nations for all matters of necessity, comfort, and even of luxury. The adoption by us of free trade would make us an agricultural people, entirely dependent upon other nations for all needful supplies in peace and war. The ability of a nation with diversilied industries to carry on a war, compared with that of an agricultural people, was perfectly illustrated in our great rebellion. All material of every sort for our military and naval service we produced among ourselves. There was never before a war in any country involving such enormous expenditures, but the North was never more busy or prosperious than during that time, because the expenditures were among our own people, in payment for supplies of every sort. So, during all the time of that great war, there was no antifering in any branch of trade or languishing in any industry. The Southerners, on the contrary, were an agricultural people. They produced almost nothing except with the plough and line. All their supplies of every kind they were compelled to buy abroad. Consequently their resources were speedily exhausted—except the large fund of English sympathy."

NEAL DOW.

Portland, Mc., March 26, 1883. matters of necessity, comfort, and even of luxury. The

MISERY AND VICE IN " BONNIE DUNDEE."

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: Mr. Porter's letters on the condition of the laboring classes in Great Britain, stern and terrible as they are in their presentment of facts, may well cause unquiet doubts to enter the minds of free traders. Born in one of the great centres he has visited and hav ing lived to mature manhood in the midst of the scenes he is describing, and knowing much of the ground over which he has travelled, I deem it my daty when his veracity is called in question to bear testimony to the entire trathfulness of your correspondent. So much was I impressed with the accuracy of his grasp-remark-able from a few days' visit-of the economic and social able from a few days' visit—of the comound and social conditions of my native city, Dundee, that I sent a copy of Fire Triber's containing Mr. Porter's letter to a shaff contituour of the Proples Journal, the most widely circulating weekly in the north of Scotland, the said journalist being a man of fine usind and a trenchant writer, and withal an uncompromising free trader. His review of Mr. Porter's letter I herewith send you; it ought to prove interesting reading to the workers of America.

Security N. V. March '90, 1883.

Syrucuse, N. Y., March 20, 1883.

I have just been reading a description of Dundee by the American reporter. It is enough to make every Seottish man bligh for shame. It is not a bit exagger sted. It understates the read condition of thousands of the people. It is a desceration of the word home to call the abode of the drunkard by that hallowed name. The women and the children suffer wrongs in these dense equal in their horror to the darkest deeds of the slave passage. They are crowded into chambers without air passage. They are crowded into chambers without air or sinstine, tasy lie on beds of fifth and rags, they are without food for days together, and they are densed all the thousand the confidence of the confidence of

cosme. They are crowded into chambers without all substitute, they are sthoot food for days together, and they are densed all set makes health, not to speak of comfort, possible, and makes health, not to speak of comfort, possible, and their life is one long tale of wee. In country villages we also do of the drunkard is the same. The spring returns the soft air stris among bare but budding brath are, and the crocus and snowdrop proclain that the inter is over and come. Anall scenes of surpassing canty, beside our noide river, below the green Law, a surrounded by all that makes Scotland so fair net so beautiful, are seenes of moral pollution which shartle and alarm as all.

The evil is not known. Our chirch-goers in thousands asset by our the other side and close their eyes to the discry which is so near. They never see the worst, but their own eyes the true condition of our posses, with their own eyes the true condition of our seconds. The sufferings of the children, especially of the ittle girls, may well cond wise men into fury. Children the bright eyes never see anything that is pure or ovely, their little cars are filled with entrains. Every evenue to their soul is choked with unattentie this soon. Let that one fact be considered, Amid all this noral intention Presbyteries squable until even Town Jemeillors are ashamed of them. Politicians gabble for weeks over the Queen's Speech, and debase the people's anchent Honored House with unworthy hideous noise. Sir, I ask you, the Editor of The People's Journal, to send a Special Commission to see the people in their homes. Photograph them, hold them up referre the eyes of our respectable church-goers. Shame our clerry, if not to nextion, to slenge, Let us know the very worst. We are living in a fool's paradise. See hard in education, in wealth, in refinement, is making progress, we are told. But, sir, there are two Scotlands. Amid all this progress there is a mighty downward, hell-ward carrent, swe expeny flours and to destruction. The first thing to be done is t

FREE TRADERS' ASTONISHING BENEFO-LENCE.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I was in an armorer's shop to-day, and the assistants were filling "shells" -of paper with rass caps, to be used in shotguns. They were formerly ande in Eng'and and imported at a cost of \$2 the 100 it wholesale. None are imported now, but shells equally good, of American make, are retailed at 75 cents for the second quality and 90 cents for the first quality.
"Beach closers" were imported at a cost of \$3 50 cach;

those of home-make are now retailed at \$1. Some time ago, I visited a lap robe factory in this State owned and run by an Englishman. He teld me he now sells ap robes, quality for quality, at one-half the price people paid for them when they were all imported. His stablishment is on a large scale and he makes the robes of several qualities and prices. He told me that recently he was " at home " in England, and while in a friend's warehouse there, a man came in with a note book in his warehouse there, a man came in what a note book in ab-band, and after a few words of private talk, his friend drew a check and gave it to the sarranger. His friend explained that it was his assessment to the "general fand." Every monificaturer is expected to contribute to it in proportion to the extent of his business. "What is the fund for it" asked my informant. "It is to operate in the United States in favor of free trade."

trade."
"How is that done?"
"By subsidizing the press, by employing lecturers and paying writers, by circulating tracts and by operating directly upon members of Congress."
But I know our English friends declare that this is all in our interest, not in theirs; a work of pure English benevolence. Portland, Me., March 16, 1883.

PROTECTION AND LABOR.

A WARNING AGAINST FREE TRADE TEACHINGS. Mr. Robert P. Perter, the statistician, is contributing a valuable and interesting series of articles on Industrial England, to The New-York Thinest, which attract very general attention and which really contain matter or national importance. Early the present mouth he paid a visit to the Elack Centry, cut business of the converted of the converted of the converted of the sense was tracing parts of the countres of Stational and Worcester, where is gathered a large population, without any of the convertedness or advantages, of municipalities; and there he personally inspected and inquired into the lives and conditions of the people. There are about 24,000 people in that dismal district employed in making halis and rivets. The secue is but seven miles from the great city of Birmingham, and yet says Mr. Forier, nobody in the prosperous city seems to know or care about the army of men, women, young girls and children who are there condemned to a life or wretched slavery. These people are among the most industrious and yet are the most wretched in England. The picture which the observer gives of the appearance of the communities, their houses and surroundings, is simply one of utter poverty, hardship and wretchedness. He writes that he there is a saw signite that ied him to doubt whether he was Mr. Robert P. Porter, the statistician, is con-

but 50 cents a week to invest, aside from actual in a Christian land. The conditions which are shows to In a Christian land. The conditions which are shown to exist among the laboring population in England are those to which the free trader's polley if permitted to obtain, would reduce the laborins-people of the United States. It would put it beyond the power of the workingmen here ever to gain the home and home comforts, the necessaries and many of the luxuries of life, which are now readily within the reach of the industrious man in these United States. The exposition made by Mr. Forter has a present and pressing interest to every workingman in this land, and should stand as a warning against the insiduous and vicious teachings of free trade advocates.

Indicate the insiduous and vicious teachings of free trade advocates.

THE CAUSE OF LABOR UPHELD BY THE TARIFF. From The Boston Traveller.

Mr. Robert P. Porter, in continuation of his letters from free-trade England to The New York TRIBUNE, writes from the "Black Country" under date, Lye Wiste, Worcestershire, March 5." This region is located partly in the Country of Stafford and partly in Worcester. It is a very diseast district and in it about 24,000 persons are engaged in making nails and rivets by hand. The boit and nail and rivet manufacturers of this country can certainly derive an instructive lesson from the statements given. England has been tempting the United States with every species of allurement to throw down the barriers of protection. If such a thing had been done by the last Congress, the American laborer would have been brought to the pithable condition of those of the Black Country; while the American haborer would have been neight but roin starting bim in the face. With the protective tariff that the Republican party has given us, as against the almost total abolition of the tariff that the Democratis would fain have had, the manufacturing interests of the country have been preserved, and with the preservation of those interess the cause of labor has been upheld. It is evident at a glance that it is the Republican and not the Democratic party in whose hands the prosperity and the perpetuity of the Nation rest.

THE FREE TRADERS PARADISE PICTURED,

publican and not the Democratic party in whose hands the prosperity and the perpetuity of the Nation rest.

THE FREE TRADERS' PARADISE PICTURED.

From The Bangor Whig and Courier.

Mr. Robert P. Porter, late member of the American Tariff Commission, has written a series of letters from England for The Thirdens, which are exciting much attention in this country. The facts for his letters Mr. Porter obtained by seeking information through personal observation and inquiry at the noints where great industrial operations are prosecuted, of the workmen themselves at the mill, shop, forge, inthe, or wherever they were employed. The letter of this kind just published by The Termers describes the condition of the people, their work and wages in the "Black Country," so-called, lying partly in Stafford and partly in Worcester Country, where the hand-made mail trade is carried on extensively. About 24,900 persons are engaged in the district making nails and rivets. The appearance of the place is wretched in the extreme. And this is in free-trade England, the paradise of free-traders, and these are the results of that doctrine upon the laborers there. This merciless system which has no regard for the laborer but to grind out of his bones and muscles the greatest possible amount of work for the least pittance of pay, is the system, which Democratic free traders are scheming to establish in our country. Fat distant be the day when this Government shall enter into competition with England in the industrial policy that causes such wretchedness and missery as Mr. Porter's eyes have seen and described in the "Old Country."

NOT AN INVITING INVITATION.

From The Wheeling Intelligences.

MOT AN INVITING INVITATION.

From The Wheeling Intelligencer.

Mr. Porter's letter from the great Newcastle coal and from district to The New-York Thisway is of special Interest to Intelligencer readers. It shows what natural resources England has for iron manufacturing, and what an immense start she has of us. It is against these tremendous odds that the British free trader invites our young country to compete—an invitation which is not very inviting. The Tribunk is rendering a valuable service to the country through the splendid work of its skilled observer.

skilled observer.

PET THEORIES DESTROYED.

From The Indianapolis Journal

The letters of Hon. Robert P. Porter to THE NEW-YORK
TRIBENE, from the industrial centres of England, are
causing considerable compent in free trade circles, the
cruel facts therein contained going far toward disproving their pet theories. That they are true in their statement of facts as he sees them there can is no doubt, and
these revelations are such that honest men in America
can but congratiate themselves that the same condition
of affairs does not exist here. These statements may not
be set aside by the overwhelming assertion that Mr.
Porter is a protectionist and a "robber," a "tariff thief,"
and the other choice epithets which flow so gilhy from
the lips of hare-brained theorists. Let the workingmen
of the United States reflect over the pleture drawn from
seenes in free trade England. The laboring classes work
hard here, and suffer many inconveniences, but nowhere
on this side of the Atlantic is there anything that is half
so deplorable as that which has been endured for a century in the manufacturing districts of England. It is
indeed, a "Black Country."

THE "GRAND PRINCIPLE" OF COMPETITION IL-

THE "GRAND PRINCIPLE" OF COMPETITION IL

THE "GRAND PRINCIPLE" OF COMPETITION ILLUSTRATED.

Prom The Kanas City Journal.

The investigations of Robert P. Porter relating to the industrial affairs of England are likely to attract attention in all parts of the evilized world. When Mr. Porter commenced his tour through England it was alleged that he had gone abroad in the interests of the protective tariff in the United States, and the free traders at once claimed that his statements were unreliable and unsupported by facts. But Mr. Porter has passed beyond the reach of his free trade critics, and is disclosing phases in the present English industrial situation that ought to startle the cheap-everything advocates. In reading Mr. Porter's account of the condition of the people engaged in the mai and rivet manufacture in what is called the "Black Country," in Worcestershire, England, we are not so much surprised that free trade can produce so much misery as we are that it is possible for any such industrial system cantrolled by the English people to exist, and its terrible details tolerated and even concealed. Whatever the contomic system practised by English nearly and even concealed. Whatever the contomic system producing the expense of human misery. The question arises, are goods and waves purchased on such tearful terms to be considered a benefit to England er of vaine to the world. It all comes of this grand principle called competition. Which means a descending scale of poverty, at the bottom of which rules starvation, crime and premature death.

ESPECIALLY INTERESTING TO THE SOUTH.

a people who have grown rich making iron, hauling the raw material hundreds of miles, and then look on at what we have.

A SAD PICTURE OF INDUSTRIAL LIFE. A SAD PICTURE OF INDUSTRIAL LIFE.

The letter of Mr. Robert P. Porter in The New-York
TRIBLE presents a sad picture of the industrial life in
the Black Commry of England. A more striking story
of burnan wretchedness and human privation has never
been published. Whole families caraing only a few
shillings a week making nails, rivets and chains; mothers, daughters and children sharing in cruel machine
labor, and all sinking deeper and deeper every year in
poverty and degradation. The beauties of free trade
are shown in all the walks of life in industrial England,
where the workinen struggle along in misery and want
year in and year out. Mr. Porter's letters ought to be
in the hands of every free trader in America who can
read. In no corner of the United States can such misery
be found as Mr. Porter describes in Worcesterslare, the
accuracy of which he stands ready to make oath to.
Free trade has made next to paupers out of the workingmen of England and their families, and it will do the
same for the laboring people of America.

men of Engined and conditions and control of the laboring people of America.

FREE TRADE NOT WANTED HERE.

From The Port Jevis Calon.

THE NEW-Youk TRIBENK does not intend to leave the citizens of the United States in ignorance of the effects of free trade upon the laboring classes in England. It is still printing Robert P. Porter's brilliant and powerful letters from the manufacturing districts of that country, and every letter contains enough facts to convince the reader that the one thing above all others which is not wanted in this country is free trade. Mr. Porter goes among the inhorers, asks them questions, goes into their houses, studies their way of living, and sees just how miserable they are, and as a very natural consequence his ideas of English pauper wages labor and the free trade system that is at the hottom of its misery are very different from the ideas of those individuals who evolve out of their, own brains, with the help of books and "logic," systems of free trade and international commerce which they declare will cure all the ills the world at large is heir to. The Tannunk deserves the graftmas of every working wan in the country.

THE ITALIAN IRON-CLAD LEPANTO.

The fourth of Italy's colossal iron-clads, the Lepanto, sister-ship of the Itala, was successfully launched at Lephorn on Saturday morning, in presence of the King and Queen, the Prince of Naples, the Duke Aosta, and the Prince of Carignano. It has been a great launched at Leghorn on Saturday morning, in presence of the King and Queen, the Prince of Naples, the Duke of Aosta, and the Prince of Carignano. It has been a great event for Leghorn; for the Lepanto is not only the first man-of-war of any size that has been built in that port, but also the first constructed in Italy in the shipyard of a private firm—that of Messrs. Orlando Brothers. The royal party accompanied by the English Ambassador, Sir Angustius Paget, and attended by Admiral Acton, Minister of Marine, drove into the shipyard at midday, and were greated with prolonged neclamations. The benediction, according to the established ritual having first been given by the Bishop of Leghorn, in full vostments, attended by his ciergy, their Majesties, with their suite and the English Ambassador and the Minister of Marine, next ascended a piatform erected at the prow of the vessel. Queen Margherita then named the ship in the usual way, by breaking a bottle of champagne over the bow. The operation of removing the shores then commenced: and in less than three minutes the shence was broken by shouts of "She moves!" she moves! "which became deafening cheers, as she went down the slips and took the water splendidly. In the evening Leghorn was brilliantly illuminated, and the festivities given by the municipality of Leghorn in honor of the event will continue for several days. The keel of the Lepanto was laid in Angust, 1877. She measures 122 metres in length and 224 in breacht, with a displacement of 14,000 tons. She is to have engines of 18,000 horse-power, giving a speed of seventeen knots, and will carry four of the 100-ton gims. She is to be taken to Spexia to receive her engines and armament.

THE BLUNDER OF TWO DETECTIVES. THE REV. ETHAN CURTIS STATES THE CIRCUM-STANCES LEADING TO HIS ARREST IN NEW-YORK. To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sin: In your issue of Tuesday was an item with this heading: "A Clergyman Arrested by Mis-take." It is due to myself, as the unfortunate victim, to state, and to the public to know, all about this transaction tion. After six months' constant labor in my parish, sought change and rest by spending Easter in New-York and Brooklyn. I attended services at Trinity on Sunday morning, and after the sermon passed immediately out into the church yard and there, standing apart from the tide of people flowing apart from the tide of people flowing out of the church-doors, I watched for a friend, I had misiald this friend's address; had no idea where she was stopping and so was desirous of meeting her. Many persons remained in the church to view the flowers or to partake of the Lord's Supper and I thought my friend might be among them. I suppose I waited in all about three-quarters of an hour. People were coming and going to see the flowers,

Twice, at intervals, I, too, stepped quietly within the church-doors for the same purpose. I had promised to write an account of the service for the home newspaper and felt that the view I had been able to obtain of the flowers was very poor. The first time I stayed only a minute, as I saw that I could not see them any better than formerly. The second time I went further in and forward and might have remained for five minutes. I then gave up the search and started for home. I passed up Broadway three or four blocks and then asked a policeman which was Fulton-st., and he pointed to the street opposite. My mind had been following some train of thought coming up from the church and resumed it as I crossed the street, so that I noticed little except where I was stepping. All at once two men stood before me and said that I could go no further, and began to attempt to turn me about. The surprise and shock

before me and said that could be a surprise and shock to attempt to turn me about. The surprise and shock were very great. At first I thought I must be dreaming; then that I was about to be robbed in open day. Just then a policeman rushed up and said that I must go with those men. So I went with them.

After proceeding a few rods the detective said, concerning me, to his fitlend: "D—n him, if he don't stee along I'll boot him." It was some time before I could understand what I was arcested for. As we passed along the officer leered in my face and said: "Did you take in much at Trinity!" Looking him in the eye, I replied, "I know nothing of what you are saying, sir." soon we reached the station, where I was able in a brief time to show who I was and why I tarried at church after the sermon. The detective at once withdrew the charge, wanted to shake hands with me, and assured me that he had done me no injury except it were to hurt my pride. As I passed out of the station he promised, and the officer in churge assented, that nothing should appear in print in regard to the matter. From the time I was stopped on my way home till I started again I suppose it might have been twenty minutes.

The supposition that I could be a pickpocket would

nothing should appear in print in regard to the matter. From time I was stopped on my way home till I started again I suppose it might have been twenty minutes.

The supposition that I could be a pickpocket would have been impossible to anyone who had watched me closely. All but about six minutes of the time I stood apart from everybody at least three feet and often much more. I couldn't have touched asyone with the tips of my diagres. The first time I went into church I simply looked in, and the second time my hands were in my own pockets. Then I was where any movement of mine could be seen from several directions.

In an interview reported in one of the papers, the officer says that I had on a large overcoat and a muffler, which I took off and put on several times as I moved in and out of one of the alsies of the church. To make these statements exactly true they will have to be changed considerably. The large overcoat will have to be reduced to a light, thin, closely-fitting one; the muffler will have to be replaced by a thin sik neck mand-kerchief such as gentlemen wear inside their coats, and the parade in the church asise never took place, for I was never in an aisle of Trinity Church in my life. The first time I went in to see the flowers I did not remove my neck-handkerchief and probably did remove it the second time. I may have taken it off and put it on two or three times in the open air as I moved from the shade into the sunsine and vice versa.

This red handkerchief was really the strong point against me. At the station-house I was told that a man who should take off that red handkerchief, and put it on again, as I did, would excite suspicion anywhere. It is said that buils become furious at the sight of red clothing, but I didn't know before that a New-York detective would. But, seriously, isn't it about time to ask whether a gentleman may wear even a red handkerchief in the streets of New-York, and take it off and put it on, as his physical comfort and well-being shall demand, without being in dan

A YOUNG MAN'S HORROR OF CO-EDUCATION. To the Editor, of The Tribune.

Sin: It seems to me that everybody is to be heard upon the subject of co-education except the statents. If the fact be, as I suppose that nine out of ten male students are averse to co-education, why have they not as much right to be consulted as the young ladies! They do not object to "higher" education for women. Let the wealthy gentlemen who signed a cer-tain petition the other day contribute the necessary funds to endow a great Female College. No one will object to that; and they can teach the young and old indies just what they please, from sanscrit to Choctaw. But no; this does not seem to be what the " Reformers want. The ladies wish to be educated with us, whether but is it modest or delicate to insist upon going with those who do not wish your company t Many young men think they cannot study so well in company with ladies. If the young ladies are not nice they annoy them; if they are nice and pretty they distract them. For my part, when I set myself down to study, I do not want any sweet and pretty young lady within kissing distance. It is a very disturbing clearent. Why a rectain class of progressive women should wish to force themselves into colleges and universities where no one desires their presence, instead of advocating the instituting of colleges and universities of their own, is something of a puzzle. It does not seem to old-fashiored people either delicate or lady-like. What would be said of a gentleman who should try to force his company upon a party of ladies! But their courtesy, I suppose, has no existence any longer in the souls of sensible and "progressive" people, more than delicacy. Rrass is voted perhaps a more suitable metal for the present cratian the old-time fine gold.

These are the opinions, I have every reason to believe, of the large majority of students.

New-York, March 27, 1883.** For my part, when I set myself down to study, I do not

SHIRKING BLAME FOR EATING THE APPLE. the Editor of The Tribune.

Sin: I do not purpose to quarrel very much with Dr. Dix in regard to his late lecture on "Woman's Mission," but there is one point I should like to see taken up and discussed. I have been taught to believe that he more intelligently and deliberately people went to work to disobey a law, either of God or man, the me accountable they were held to be, and the greater and more inexcusable their guilt. But Dr. Dix, quoting St. Paul, says: "The man not being deceived was not in the transgression." Was the devil, "not being deceived," "not in the transgression" I Does the peor little woman, who "wanted to know," and was tricked into

woman, who "wanted to know," and was tricked into partaking of the fruit, wake up to find herself the only sinner! I had supposed the binded and cheated were more entitled to sympathy and charity.

Then there is a strong inclination in human nature to blame someone clase or something else for our shortcomings. We are rarely ready to acknowledge ourselves in the wrong. And so Paul and Dr. Dix, humiliated with the reflection that their august sex was so easily persuaded by "the weaker vessel," are bound she shall bear all the blame. But this makes some things clear. I have often wondered why men covered up so persistently each other's meannesses and vices and often their crimes. They know exactly what they are about, are not deceived, and therefore "hre not in the transgression."

Yours sincerely.

A. M. WORDEN.

HOW THE CALIFORNIA "INSANITY DODGE" BILL WAS KILLED. To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: THE TRIBUNE and many other East ern papers praised us of California too soon. My "In-sanity Dodge" bill died on the files of the Senate through our adjournment. I introduced it very early in the session, it was referred to the Judiciary Committee, and after a wholly unnecessary delay that committee reported against its passage. I had to wait till it was eached upon the first-reading file, and then in the teeth of the adverse report of the Judiciary Committee, and with every lawyer in the House except two voting against it, I carried it to a first and a second reading. On the second reading I had submit to an alteration which really injured the bill, viz., making the trial of insanity by jury compulsory instead of by the court, unless a jury be demanded; otherwise I feared it would be wholly lost This alteration was not carried through the bill, which thus became somewhat inconsistent but perfectly workable ; however, in the Senate, Senator Cross declared his intention of restoring the bill to its pristine state, and I settled the proper amendments with him. Meanwhile, many who had been led by the lawyers to vote against many who had been ied by the lawyers to vote against the bill on its first and second readings, now declared in favor of it; and in spite of a virulent opposition by the main body of the lawyers and all the aid the Speaker could give them by the most unfair rulings. I carried it triumphantly through the House, with one single exception every Senstor declared himsell in favor of the bill as Mr. Cross proposed to restore it. The one exception was at least bonest, for he is a lawyer, and both by character and professional and educational bias is opposed to all law reform. All the other Senstors, including the lawyers, professed to be anxious to pass the bill, as did also the Lieutenant-Gordener; but semehow every proposition to take it up out of its order was either voted down or ruled out of order by the presiding officer, while the mest trampery measures in which some one had a personal interest were taken up and passed.

The fact is, the insanity dodge is an enormous reservoir of fees to attorneys who defend wealthy murderers, and the attorneys are sure to be against itsolong as they

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE. dare, i.e., until public opinion in an unmistakable ma Bacramento, Cal., March 14, 1883.

ABOUT MR. BRONSON ALCOTA

To the Editor of The Tribune. SiR: "My children," said Mr. Turveydrop, recovering from the agitation consequent on his son's mary riage to Caddy Jellyby, "you shall live with me." which meant "I will live with you." A writer in The Indianapolis Review says that Mr. Bronson Alcott is an American Turveydrop. He is reported to have said to an acquaintance: "I early determined not to put my life as a pledge for fine furniture, for luxuries, etc. We lead a simple life, Mrs. Alcott and I." "Yes," says the writer in The Review (edited by a woman), " he lived a simple life, but she was obliged to work like a slave. . . Mr. Alcott's 'simple life' did not take in the gross material cares of providing for his family-that vulgar duty fell upon his wife and family. His daughter Louise hired out as a fursery-maid before she took up the pen, and since then has entirely supported the family. Oh, no; Mr. Alcott i never put his life as a pledge' for the material surroundings. He mused and meditated whilst his family scratched up something for him to eat. His 'simple life' must seem very beautiful to those who never knew the laborious and anxious life his wife and childen led." This is a heavy indictment and likely to provoke much severe comment, especially among the classes at Concord during the coming summer, unless, as I sincerely hope, it is satisfactorily refuted before then. Miss Mittord, too, I believe, had a papa somewhat of the type Mr. Alcott is alleged to be. Yours, New-York, March 30, 1883. upon his wife and family. His daughter Louise

TAMPERING WITH THE HEALTH LAWS. To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Under cover of the more exciting disussions of the Charter and Croton Aqueduct bills, na attempt is being made in the Legislature to tamper with the act passed in 1881 for "The Supervision of Plumbing and Draining in New-York City and Brooklyn." All the difficulties attending the introduction of this most important municipal law have been successfully overcome, and the plumbers and those most affected by its action have seen their interest in supporting the wise action of the Board of Health in enforcing its provisions. At this moment a bill is awaiting final passage in the Assembly by which the Board of Health is forbidden to interfere with the laying of vitrified glazed pipe or tile for draining. This matter had been wisely left as one of detail to the discretion of the Board of Health, and after full inquiry it had been decided that, as a rule, iron pipe of approved standard should be used for the connection beween the house and the street sewer. In June last the Board of Health came to the conclusion that it would be wise to allow the use of hard vitrified salt-glazed drainpipe from the street sewer to the front wall of the house on certain conditions, and when recommended specially by the Sanitary Engineer. The object was to secure

on certain conditions, and where this from the secure only the best and most satisfactory work in the laying of underground tile pipes; but where this from the nature of the soil or the character of the construction could not be guaranteed, the general ratie as to iron drain pipes would have to be observed.

As a matter of principle it would be very deployable to obstruct in any way the exercise of the wise discretionary powers of the Board of Health. Nothing has occurred to show that it has exceeded these powers of acted harshly in carrying out the rules adopted by it for the protection of the public. Such action is very like an open ceasure of the Board of by the Legislature. At any rate to limit by such piecemeal legislation the operation of the Board of Health at the mere suggestions of outsiders, unsupported by argument, is to cripple the independence and destroy the usefulness of this most important and efficient municipal department.

It is to be hoped that in Committee of the Whole steps will be taken to delay action, if not to defeat the bill absolutely. The Board of Health as well as the tax-payers of the city have a right to be consulted on such a subject.

solutely. The Board of Health as well as the Lax-Paye of the city have a right to be consulted on such a subject HENRY E. PELLEW, Vice-President Sanitary Reform Association. New-York, March 30, 1883.

SIGNAL SERVICE MAPS.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sin: It is full time to take a "new departure" in meteorology. The daily weather map that is published in Washington can only be of full value to those who are able to see it on the day of publication. The present "indications" cannot possibly equal the map, but the map cannot be transported, or transmitted, without great expense and delay. This being the case, I have suggested as a substitute, a skeleton map of the United states, that is, to have a map of the United States divided into squares, which shall be designated by figures or letters—these maps to be of any size, say from 12x16 to a size an all enough to go into the column of a hewspaper. Again, these maps can be painted in simole black and white, black ground and white lines, on a board, any size, large enough to be seen readily 100 feet away-the divisions designated by characters, figures or letters, and the changes indicated by chalk lines put on from time to time, as reports may be received. In place of, or auxiliary to, the present "indications." In place of, or anxiliary to, the present "indications, the condition of the map would be telegraphed to the papers—even a number of times a day; the location of "High" and "Low," t. e., high and low barometer, and where and how the storm or storms may be traveling. This will be the meteorology of the inture. It will not take intelligent people long to understand how to real and profit by such a map. In a week's time they will become adept at it, and when they do they will no more go book to the old system than they would dispense with the telephone. Very respectfully yours. Isaac P. NOYES.

PUBLIC HEALTH AT CROTON LANDING.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir. For years efforts have been made to have a nursance at this place abated, and when the matter was intended to be brought before the Grand Jury, Pierre C. Van Wyck i rounised he would do whatever the complainants would agree that was reasonable. We were to biame for believing that the man whom President Arthur had selected for Assayer in New-York City would keep its promise. The Hudson River Ruil-road, which was complained of at the same time, is doing all it can to prevent a recurrence of the conditions of last year, but Mr. Van Wyck has allowed the fall and winter to pass, and will probably plead that it cannot be safely

to pass, and will probably peak that their bomes hers, done now are intending to make their bomes hers, and all who are tanking of spending the summer hers, I would say: "Examine for yourselves see if the stagment pools and ponds covered with a thick green seum, festering in the summer sun, is confincive to health; ask the physicians if malaria is known. Parents where children are here for education ought to see that the instruction received is made useless by pulsons inhaied that will tend to shorten the lives now so full of promise. If it is not possible to co-rect this nulsance, I can at least warm the public against it.

ONE OF THE SUFFERENS

Croton Landing, N. Y., March 19, 1883.

AMERICAN ART AND YOUNG ARTISTS. To the Editor of the Tribune. Sin: Three obstacles block the way of young American artists, all of which The Trinung can do much to remove. There is an overflow of foreign paintings at present. The auction-hammer is busy. Anything foreign, whether a picture or a new style of dry-goods, has an attraction, for a large circle of the publie, which does not belong to the native production, The public taste, still largely in process of form thou, is affected by names, and the buyer seeks too readily the foreign article. And the third difficulty is found in tae management of the National Academy of Design. It is too conservative, and tils, Phelieve, is largely the feeling of the students. In saying this I censure none. But young artists suffer by it, and feel that the past cannot young artists suffer by it, and feel that the past cannot and ought not to rule in the present, unless it rules in the spirit of progress. It would be a wise and generous act on the part of the Academicians to lessen the number of the pictures they wish to examin and leave recent for the younger brethren of the palette and brush to be represented. Some of the older and more successful artists might do the same. Fine art should always have generous votaties.

Newark, March 10, 1883.

MR. THURBER'S SIDEWALKS.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: You would do me and the persons who have to pass through West Broadway a favor if you could tell me why it is that F. B. Thurber has been allowed to put permanent platforms on the sidewalks fronting his stores, preventing their use by the public. I have lived in this city over thirty years and never before have I seen such a shameless usurpation of the side-walks. I believe Mr. Thurber pretends to be an authonopolist. He does not live up to his principles in this case, however.

New-York, March 28, 18 x3.

NEWPORT NOTES.

NEWPORT, R. I., April 1 .- Mrs. Caroline M. Seymour, Clement N. Ferguson and Samuel Coleman, of New-York, have arrived at their cottages for the season. Elaborate villas are to be erected at once for Mrs. Cowles, daughter of Senator Thurman, of Ohio, and for Dr. C. M. Bell, of New-York, who recently paid \$75,000 for James Gordon Bennett's villa site at Bellevue-ave. and The Cliffs. Dr. Bell's "cottage" will cost \$100,000. Mrs. Harriet J. Nash, of New-York, has purchas cottage here.

Cosey cottages are being built for Mrs. Ellen L. Schott, of New-York, and for Mrs. Eustis, of Boston. Walter L. Kane, of New-York, has leased his cottage in

Walter L. Kane, of New-York, has leased his cottage in Bellevue-ave. to Morris K. Jesup.

Seth B. French, of New-York, will occupy the Swan cottage near the beach. Cottages have been taken by W. M. Ballou, of Providence; General Townsend, of Albany; Dr. Goddard and Prescott Lawrence, of Boston, and S. F. Tyler, of Philadelphia.

Up to the present time the real catate agents have not succeeded in renting the usual number of cortages.

Ex-Governor John Lee Carroll, of Maryland, will spen the season here.